

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A transmitting and receiving processing section sequentially sends data which includes a communication command to each controller. When each controller receives the data, it sends back data which includes an operation signal to the transmitting and receiving processing section. During a period when the transmitting and receiving processing section communicates with a machine body, the transmitting and receiving processing section sends a dummy signal. When a controller receives the dummy signal, it does not send back an operation signal, but operates so as to set a receiving mode for the next time slot. Therefore, even during a busy period when the transmitting and receiving processing section is busy, data transmission and receiving is performed between the transmitting and receiving processing section and each controller. Since each controller is made to enter a short receiving mode during the busy period, the power consumption of the controller is reduced.